



CITY OF DALLAS

June 17, 2019

Honorable Ken Paxton
Attorney General of Texas
300 W. 15th Street
Clements Building, 12th Floor
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Request for an Open Records Decision

Dear Mr. Attorney General Paxton:

By electronic submission (Exhibit A) received by the City of Dallas ("city") on June 3, 2019 Emma Best requested information pertaining to specified records.

The city is gathering the requested information and it is anticipated that some of the requested information will be exempt from mandatory disclosure under the Public Information Act, Chapter 552, Texas Government Code (the "Act"). Since we have not been able to review all the requested information, we would assert that certain information contained in Emma Best's request may be protected from disclosure under Sections 552.101 through 552.154 of the Act. Under Section 552.301 of the Act, this office now seeks your determination about whether this information is exempt from disclosure.

Our comments stating the reasons why the Act excepts the requested information from disclosure, and copies of the requested information (or samples if voluminous), will be sent to your office by June 24, 2019 as required by Section 552.301(e) of the Act.

If you have any questions regarding this request for an open records decision, please contact me at (214) 670-3742.

Respectfully submitted,

Parris Long
Open Records Coordinator
Open Records Center, City Secretary's Office

Attachments

c: Bilierae Johnson, City Secretary
Camelia Taylor, Administrative Specialist

Emma Best
Via GovQA

EXHIBIT A

C005093-060319 - Open Records Request

▼ Open Records Request Details

Please be as specific as possible, including dates, names, numbers, or other identifiers that will assist in locating the information you seek. Examples: "I hereby request the following documents [document name/type] on [event, project, need] Police report [number], dated [date], and involving [description and date]". "I am requesting a certificate of occupancy for [X address]."

Describe the document(s) you are requesting:

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Ohio Open Records Law, I hereby request the following records:

Documents mentioning or relating to Anonymous (the hacker movement/collective, see below) or hacktivism (defined as hacking as a form of protest and/or activism) generated between 1 January 2009 and 1 January 2019, limited to:

- * Internal reports, bulletins, warnings and alerts relating to Anonymous or hacktivism
- * Reports from the appropriate IT (Information Technology) or computer offices regarding possible cyber attacks by Anonymous or other hacktivists
- * Reports, bulletins, warnings and alerts sent to or received from either the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, any fusion center or federal agency relating to or mentioning Anonymous
- * Incident reports investigating possible hacking activity falling within the office's jurisdiction and allegedly carried out by members of Anonymous or other hacktivist groups
- * Materials generated as a result of any suspected or actual compromise, breach or "dox" (revealing of personal or private information) by Anonymous or other hacktivists

Anonymous has been described by government agencies as a non-hierarchical hacktivist collective. Anonymous uses hacking (and arguably cracking) techniques to register political protest in campaigns known as "Operation Distributed Denial of Services (DDoS) attacks, past activities have included attacks against the Church of Scientology; Visa, Paypal, and others who withdrew their services from WikiLeaks' Julian Assange after that group's documents; #OpTunisia and others purporting to support the Arab Spring; and a campaign that brought down the website of the Westboro Baptist Church. #Ops are usually marked with the release of a video of a person using a computer generated voice. See attached for additional background information.

I am a member of the news media and request classification as such. I have previously written about the government and its activities, with some reaching over 100,000 readers. As such, as I have a reasonable expectation of my editorial and writing skills are well established. In addition, I discuss and comment on the files online and make them available through non-profits such as the Internet Archive and MuckRock, disseminating them. My research is not limited to this, a great deal of it, including this, focuses on the activities and attitudes of the government itself. As such, it is not necessary for me to demonstrate the relevance of this particular subject.

As my primary purpose is to inform about government activities by reporting on it and making the raw data available, I request that fees be waived.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or by mail.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 10 business days.

Sincerely,

Emma Best

Attachments:

https://cdn.muckrock.com/outbound_composer_attachments/TheEmmaBest/71026/A-0010-NCCIC-BULLETIN.pdf

Upload documents directly: https://https://www.muckrock.com/https://accounts.muckrock.com/accounts/login/?url_auth_token=AAAVU4bGnx16w3Xzoo_7VqUR_Lc%3A1hWYF7%3A2CF0ck06rFC214nL3IE1An12gCY&next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.muckrock.com%2Faccounts%2Flogin%2F%3Fnext%3D%252Faccounts%252Ffager-police-department-661%252Fanonymous-general-hacktivists-2009-2018-cleveland-police-department-74475%252F%253F

Date or Date Range: 1 January 2009 to 1 January 2019

Please provide the date or date range of your specific records request.

Preferred Method to Receive Documents: Digital via Dallas Open Records Center - (Please note: All records may not be available electronically)

> Department with Record(s)

▼ Office Use Only

Litigation:  This field is not visible to customers.

> Child Request Creation

> Notes

▼ Message History

Date

Date

On 6/3/2019 2:07:26 PM, Camelia Taylor (SEC) wrote:

Subject: Open Records Request :: C005093-060319

Body:
Greetings,

RE: PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT REQUEST of 6/3/2019, Reference #C005093-060319

Dear Emma,

The City of Dallas received a public information request from you on 6/3/2019. Your request mentioned:

" To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Ohio Open Records Law, I hereby request the following records:

Documents mentioning or relating to Anonymous (the hacker movement/collective, see below) or hacktivism (defined as hacking as a form of protest and/or activism) generated between 1 January 2009 and 1 January 2019, including but not limited to:

- * Internal reports, bulletins, warnings and alerts relating to Anonymous or hacktivism
- * Reports from the appropriate IT (Information Technology) or computer offices regarding possible cyber attacks by Anonymous or other hacktivists
- * Reports, bulletins, warnings and alerts sent to or received from either the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, any fusion center or federal agency relating to or mentioning Anonymous or hacktivism
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Anonymous has been described by government agencies as a non-hierarchical hacktivist collective. Anonymous uses hacking (and arguably cracking) techniques to register political protest in campaigns known as "ops." Best known for distributed denial of services (DDoS) attacks, past activities have included attacks against the Church of Scientology; Visa, Paypal, and others who withdrew their services from WikiLeaks' Julian Assange after that group began releasing documents; #OpTunisia and others purporting to support the Arab Spring; and a campaign that brought down the website of the Westboro Baptist Church. #Ops are usually marked with the release of a video of a reader in a Guy Fawkes mask using a computer generated voice. See attached for additional background information.

I am a member of the news media and request classification as such. I have previously written about the government and its activities, with some reaching over 100,000 readers. As such, as I have a reasonable expectation of public editorial and writing skills are well established. In addition, I discuss and comment on the files online and make them available through non-profits such as the Internet Archive and MuckRock, disseminating them to a large audience. My research is not limited to this, a great deal of it, including this, focuses on the activities and attitudes of the government itself. As such, it is not necessary for me to demonstrate the relevance of this particular subject in advance.

As my primary purpose is to inform about government activities by reporting on it and making the raw data available, I request that fees be waived.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 10 business days.

Sincerely,

Emma Best

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https://cdn.muckrock.com/outbound_composer_attachments/TheEmmaBest/71026/A-0010-NCCIC-BULLETIN.pdf

Upload documents directly: https://https://www.muckrock.com/https://accounts.muckrock.com/accounts/login/?url_auth_token=AAVU4bGnxl6w3Xzoo_7VqUR_Lc%3A1hWYF7%3A2CF0ck06rFCz14nL3IE1AnI2gCY&next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.muckrock.com%2Faccounts%2Flogin%2F%3Fnext%3D%252Faccounts%252Fagency_login%252Fcleveland-police-department-661%252Fanonymous-general-hacktivists-2009-2018-cleveland-police-department-74475%252F%253F

This letter is to clarify what information that you are seeking from the City of Dallas.

CLARIFICATIONS - Before we begin to process your request, please clarify whether you are seeking records from the Ohio or Texas (City of Dallas).

This letter requesting clarification is being made pursuant to Texas Government Code § 552.222. Please be advised that if the City of Dallas does not receive a written response within sixty-one (61) days from the date of this letter, the underlying request for public information will be considered to have been withdrawn in accordance with § 552.222. Please respond in writing so that there is a record of your clarification.

You may provide a response by any of the following methods:

1. by replying to this electronic mail
2. by replying via the Public Information Request System

Upon receipt of your clarification, the City of Dallas will further respond to your Public Information Act Request as required by law, including providing you with an estimate of costs associated with producing the requested records.

Respectfully,

Parris Long
City Secretary's Office

"Our Product is Service"

Empathy | Ethics | Excellence | Equity

Date

On 6/3/2019 9:12:42 AM, System Generated Message:

Message sent to: **Emma Best****Subject:** New Request Created :: C005093-060319**Body:**

RE: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST of June 03, 2019, PIR Reference # C005093-060319.

Dear Emma Best,

We received a request for Public Records and have forwarded your request to the appropriate team. Your new reference number is: C005093-060319.

You requested: To Whom It May Concern:

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The information you requested will require additional time to retrieve depending upon the information you are requesting and the divisions, sections or units responsible for retrieving the responsive documents. Other factors affecting processing of your request may include research, processing, redactions and copying. In compliance with the Government Code 552.221(d), the Open Records Unit anticipates the information may be provided within 20 business days from the date of this letter, by 10:00 am.

Respectfully,

Open Records Staff

This is an auto-generated email and has originated from an unmonitored email account. Please DO NOT REPLY

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GovQA

▼ Request Details

Reference No:	C005093-060319
Create Date:	6/3/2019 9:12 AM
Update Date:	6/17/2019 11:57 AM
Completed/Closed:	No
Required Completion Date:	6/18/2019
Status:	Processing
Priority:	Transfer
Assigned Dept:	City Secretary's Office
Assigned Staff:	Parris Long
Customer Name:	Emma Best
Email Address:	74475-37144676@requests.muckrock.com
Phone:	
Source:	Walk-In